

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Examiner Brier is thanked for withdrawing the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of Claims 20, 23 and 26.

Claims 28-31 have been added. Thus, Claims 1-31 are currently pending in this application, with Claims 1, 9, 17 and 27 being the only independent Claims.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,179,650 to *Fukui et al.* *Fukui et al.* discloses a method and apparatus for editing documents. A document including images and blank spaces is scanned. All of the document images are extracted, recorded and reproduced in the resulting product. Document data contains "elements such as article data, graphic data and image data..." See column 3, lines 17-22. But, document data does not include any of the blank spaces not taken up by document data. The blank space of the scanned document is not extracted from the scanned image and is not recorded or edited.

In response to the previous amendment, the Official Action points to Figure 17 of *Fukui et al.* to disclose data blocks being extracted and reconstructed to be less than the entire image. Figure 17 shows three scanned pages having a document data portion that does not fill all the available space on three pages. See column 8, line 34. The three pages are scanned and the entire document image portion is extracted and rearranged to fit onto two pages having less excess available space than before. The Official Action argues that extracting all the scanned document data from the three pages and editing it to fit onto two pages discloses extracting

document blocks from a portion of an image and reconstructing the blocks to be less than the entire image as defined in Claims 1, 9, 17 and 27.

In view of the Official Action's apparent interpretation of the claim language concerned with the recitation directed to an --image--, Claims 1, 9, 17 and 27 have been amended to more clearly define that a portion of the image includes characters and/or figures and that the document blocks are reconstructed to be less than the character and/or figure portion of the image. Therefore, the claims are now more clearly directed to means, apparatus and methods for extracting document blocks from a portion of an entire image including characters and/or figures and reconstructing the document blocks to be less than the entire character and/or figure portion of the entire image.

The present invention as defined in Claims 1, 9, 17 and 27 is patentably distinguishable over *Fukui et al.* at least because *Fukui et al.* does not disclose extracting a document block from a portion of an entire image including characters and/or figures, and reconstructing the document block so that it is less than the entire character and/or figure portion of the entire image as currently defined in Claims 1, 9, 17 and 27.

For at least the reasons stated above, Claims 1, 9, 17 and 27 are allowable. Also, dependent Claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-26 and 28-31 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims.

Claims 28-31 are also allowable because they define that an area of the reconstructed document blocks is the same as a total area of the extracted document data. *Fukui et al.* does not disclose this feature, and instead discloses in Figure 17 that the total area of the extracted document data (more than two pages)

is not the same as an area of the reconstructed document data (two pages). For at least this reason, Claims 28-31 are allowable.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner feel that a teleconference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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